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WOMEN AND WAR SERVICE.

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] *Societies and Branches in the Union* **602.** [NON-PARTY.

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Notes and News.

The Government's Appeal and the Women's Response.

Both the patriotism and the need of the women of this country are being shown in their instant response to the appeal made to them for help, last week. Every kind of work is offered and asked for. It will be an anxious business organising and training the workers, but we hope it will be thoroughly done. Above all, we trust that all men's unions will act in line with (*e.g.*) the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks, whose General Secretary explains in *The Daily Telegraph* of March 23rd, that "it is their duty, as trade unionists, to protect the conditions of employment, but, so long as that is done, it does not matter whether men or women are employed." It is of the first importance that the women should receive equal pay with the men for equal work; and all who have studied this particular economic problem know how easy it is to juggle with the question of "equal work." It is constantly interpreted to mean "the same work," and with the least possible ingenuity the work can be arranged so that it is not exactly "the same." Then the excuse for lowering the rate is at once seized and acted upon.

The Consequence of Under-Payment.

If women are persistently paid less than the standard rate for men, they damage themselves, the men, and the whole standard of public efficiency. For the worker tends to be worth what she is paid; if it is little, she loses in status, she decreases in vitality and energy, she becomes less and less efficient. Her employer, disgusted with the result of his own injustice, loudly proclaims it, and proves to his own satisfaction that if he pays women very little, it is because they are worth very little. The rate for men, on the other hand, can always be kept down by the fear that if they ask for more, they will be displaced by women. So the vicious circle is complete. It can only be broken when men realise that, whatever complications are put in the way by slight *differences* of work, the principle of equal pay for *equal* work must be maintained.

Women and the Munitions of War.

There is something rather touching in the special response made by women to the demand for labour in the making of war munitions. "My husband is fighting at the front, and I should like to make cartridges for him" writes a soldier's wife (*The Daily Telegraph*, March 23rd). "Making cartridges" no doubt presents itself to many women as the nearest equivalent to "going to the front." It is sufficiently gruesome to reflect on what "making cartridges for my husband" means to some other woman's husband. But no doubt "these things must not be thought on after this manner—so it will make us mad."

Training for Belgian Nurses.

In contrast to this desire to assist in the destructiveness of war comes a fresh proposal for the training of nurses. It is thought that Belgian women would prove infinitely useful in helping to care for their own soldiers, and so meet a pressing need. Accordingly, a home for the training of Belgian women as nurses is to be opened near Hyde Park, under the supervision of Professor Jacobs, Médecin en Chef of the King Albert Hospital, No. 1, Store Street, W.C. Professor Jacobs stated to a representative of *The Daily Telegraph* that they hoped to provide for the training of at least fifty nurses, who would be able to undergo a short course in hygiene, anatomy, cookery, and other subjects, under the direction of competent doctors, professors, and a matron. After some experience at home, these nurses would be sent to one of the base hospitals at the front.

New and Lucrative Posts for Women.

A truly admirable suggestion comes from "a woman correspondent" in *The Times* of March 19th. Commenting on the appeal of the Government to women to come forward and take up the work of men who have gone to the front, she suggests that they might fill the places of Members of Parliament (at £400 a year, we assume: equal pay for equal work). This is a suggestion which opens a wide field for conjecture. Lady Frances Balfour, perhaps, to replace the hon. member for Walton, and Miss Catherine Marshall to replace General Seeley?

Government and Temperance Reform.

At the close of last week's conference between the Government and Labour representatives, Mr. Lloyd George made the suggestion that steps might be taken to restrict still further the hours of public houses in certain areas, in which excessive drinking has hindered the output of munitions of war. He announced that the Government was considering the advisability of allowing the public houses in these areas to open only between 12 noon and 2 p.m. and 7 to 9 o'clock in the evening. Many men, and probably most women, would, however, be glad to see more drastic proposals. There seems no reason why the suggested restrictions should be confined to areas where drinking is hindering the manufacture of army supplies, while, in other districts, the treating of soldiers is allowed to impair the efficiency of our troops. Why does the Government not take courage, and prohibit the sale of alcohol—or, at any rate, of spirits—during the war?

Waste of Grain in Distilling.

Such a reform would both benefit the health of the nation, and divert to use as food large quantities of grain, at present used in distilling. According to a pamphlet issued by the United Kingdom Alliance, some 73,000,000 lb. of grain and 9,500,000 lb. of sugar are used every week by brewers and distillers. Surely, with food prices steadily rising, this waste of the necessities of life should be checked?

Stimulating Production.

The question of stimulating production, which at this moment is so closely occupying the attention of the Government, is bound to affect women in a variety of ways. Last week Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Runciman conferred at the Treasury with the representatives of nearly thirty Trade Unions, and in outlining the problems to be faced, Mr. Lloyd George mentioned the relaxation of Trade Union rules respecting overtime and the employment of semi-skilled labour. "The employment of women's labour," he said, "might be of great help in some cases." That the conditions under which such labour is employed will need the closest vigilance is emphasised by the statement made by Mr. Anderson in regard to sweated labour in army contracts, in the House of Commons, on March 15th.

Sweating in Army Contracts.

The girls employed at Messrs. Armstrong & Whitworth's, at Elswick, stated Mr. Anderson, "work twelve hours per day, with one and a-half hours' break for meals, Sundays as well. They are working two shifts at present, and girls are working all night. They have been working three shifts, but the girls were half dead, and they found they had to stop it. Girls of 17 get 8s. a week; girls of 18, 9s. a week; and girls of 20, 11s. a week; and in addition to this there is a bonus, which seems largely to be used for speeding up the girls. . . . Some of the girls say they have worked twenty hours at a stretch since the war broke out. Many times they have worked ninety-five hours a week since the war broke out. If the girls take a Sunday rest, there is deducted all the bonus which the girls earn during the week."

The Insurance Commission and Pensions.

We are glad to see that the Workers' War Emergency Committee are urging the advantages of the Insurance Commission as the central body for administering military pensions and allowances. Their reasons are very largely those already put forward in The Common Cause. The Emergency Committee, however, proposes that the Old Age Pensions Committees should be responsible for the local work. If this were so, the Local Government Board would have to be the central body, and to it the insuperable objection exists that it has no women at headquarters.

Women and Church Councils.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage is organising a petition for the admission of women to Church Councils (Ruri-decanal, Diocesan, and Representative) on the same terms as men. We commend this petition to all Anglican Churchwomen, Suffragist or non-Suffragist. The stock objections to the political enfranchisement of women are irrelevant here, for the Church, at least, is not governed by physical force, and Church politics should surely not be regarded as an internecine strife! We are confident, too, that the bishops and clergy will be ready to receive and consider this petition, for their recent vote in the Representative Church Council proves them ready for advance. It is the "ecclesiastically minded layman"—and laywoman—whom the members of the Church League have to convert.

German Help for Foreigners.

Another report has just been issued by the Society for the Relief of Distressed Foreigners in Germany, in which the following words occur: "It is not merely the recollection that fellow-citizens of ours are detained in enemy lands that prompts us to do this work; it is a real desire to render the service of friends to those who, without any fault of theirs, suffer from the effects of the war. Even in war time, love for the enemy is the connecting link between those who believe in Christ. . . . We have, in fact, rendered neighbourly services to innocent enemies, in whom we only see brothers and sisters." We learn that the German religious press endorses this attitude, and expresses pleasure on hearing that the similar organisation in England has spent £20,000 on its work.

NATIONAL UNION AND ORGANISATION OF WOMEN WORKERS.

The National Union having been approached by the Home Office with regard to the Government scheme as to the employment of women in the place of men, expressed its willingness to co-operate on the following terms:—

The N.U.W.S.S. welcomes a Government scheme for the organisation of women who are willing to take paid employment for war services, provided that the necessary safeguards are secured.

The points which the N.U.W.S.S. particularly wishes to emphasise are:—

(1) The necessity of equal pay for equal work, thus avoiding the undercutting of men.

(2) The great importance of training.

(3) The securing of good conditions as to housing, &c., especially in agriculture.

The Committee further decided to distribute the registration forms among the Societies, and to urge those which have offices to undertake the registration of women, and give help and advice to those who wish to offer their services. Many of the Societies, including the London Society, have already begun to do this, and the shop at 50, Parliament Street, is crowded all day with women who come to register. The experience already gained in this kind of work since the beginning of the war is proving of great value.

WOMEN'S WORK IN WAR TIME.

Soldiers' Canteen at the Front.

A crowded and enthusiastic meeting was held by the Women's Emergency Corps at His Majesty's Theatre on March 23rd, its main purpose being to obtain support for the Soldiers' Canteens organised by the Corps.

Her Grace the Duchess of Marlborough, from the chair, spoke of the many-sided work of the Corps, some of whose activities, she hoped, would not cease with the emergency which had called them into being, but would become a permanent institution. She hoped particularly that the toy-making industry, so peculiarly suited to women's deft and clever touch, would be secured to English workers, and appealed for support for the toy-making department of the Corps.

Lord Charles Beresford paid generous tribute to the work of women during the war. Never in the history of our Empire had the great characteristics of women come so much to the front, and their energy, sympathy, and grit would be remembered for all time. They all wanted to help, and if they were not given a chance they made it for themselves, without any encouragement. He had been amazed at the power of organisation which they had shown. The canteens organised by the Emergency Corps were under the auspices of the French military and medical authorities, who were so pleased with them that they had asked for more. It was brilliant work, and most beneficial in keeping up the health and spirits of the troops, to whom it meant a great deal to be served with hot coffee or chocolate, food, and other comforts, as they come to and from the trenches.

Mr. Percy Alden, M.P., dealt with the Government's scheme for the employment of women. A joint committee of the Home Office and the Board of Trade had made inquiries into the possibilities of using women's work in place of men's in certain trades. The Government had come to the conclusion that if the full work before the nation is to be met, women must be used to a far greater extent to replace men who ought to go to the front.

Some of the conditions which he would like to see laid down with regard to the replacing of men by women were:—

(1) Unemployed women should be given the first chance, and if it is necessary to train them it should be done.

(2) Where a woman replaces a man, in order that he may fight, the place of that man must be kept open.

(3) Where women had not displaced men every effort should be made to give women such training as would enable them to do permanent work.

(4) Women should be well paid. The better they are paid, the better work they will do. There should be equal pay for equal value.

On this matter of wages the whole question would turn. The Trade Unions and women's organisations would not allow women to work for a low wage. The thing to do first was to set up a Voluntary Trade Board, to fix wages and conditions *at once*. There should be a Board for each trade, and a Central Board.

To be signed only by Communicants. Graduates should indicate their degrees, clergymen their official status.

This form should bear only one signature, and when signed should be returned to the Church League for Women's Suffrage, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, London, W.C.

To the Representative Church Council of the Church of England.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE UNDERSIGNED AND OTHERS, BEING COMMUNICANTS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND, SHEWETH

1. That the exclusion of Women from the Ruri-Decanal and Diocesan Conferences, from the Houses of Laymen, and from the Representative Church Council, is an infraction of that spiritual equality of the sexes which is a fundamental principle of the Christian Faith.

2. That it forbids the direct expression in these assemblies of women's views upon questions which are there considered, upon all of which women claim the right to be heard, and concerning some of which they can almost claim a monopoly of first-hand knowledge.

3. That the authority of the decisions of such assemblies is thereby weakened.

4. That a stumbling-block is thereby placed in the path of many women who regard their exclusion, deliberately decreed, as an infringement of their spiritual status as co-heirs with men of the Kingdom of God.

5. That all women are thereby deprived of the stimulus which comes from the sense of equal opportunity and responsibility for both sexes alike.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE PRAY THAT YOU WILL SO AMEND THE RULES FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF THE LAITY IN THE COUNCILS OF THE CHURCH AS TO RENDER WOMEN COMMUNICANTS ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION TO ALL ASSEMBLIES NOW OPEN TO MALE COMMUNICANTS.

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Address .....

THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT AND WAR.

The three meetings organised on March 22nd at the Central Hall, Westminster, were attended by many thousands of men and women, and at each session during the day the numbers increased. The speeches dealt with the Woman's Movement under its religious aspect, and were as much concerned with Christianity as feminism.

Mr. Temple, in his opening speech from the chair, emphasised the fact that the Woman's Movement stands—or should stand—for the belief that hope and love are the right expressions of the relations between human beings. If this is not so, if force rather than love is the ultimate relation between us, then there is no meaning in the Woman's Movement at all. At the present moment, it is as though Christ once more stood at the Judgment Seat of Pilate, Church and State both united to reject Him—on the same grounds—of treason against them. But we know that now, as then, it is not Christ who is judged, but Pilate.

Mr. Nevinson spoke from personal knowledge of the realities of war. Making all allowance for the self-sacrifice, devotion, courage, and, above all, the loyal comradeship shown in war, the fact remains that war is murder, sanctioned by the State. No one who knows it at first-hand glorifies it, and there is more glorification of war and hatred of enemies in any London music hall than in the whole of the British Army. Of this war, Mr. Nevinson continued, correspondents are not allowed now to speak the truth, and he was himself obliged, even on that platform, only to speak of what was comparatively remote. But we might rest assured that war was horrible, not only, as some of us used to think, between comparatively uncivilised countries, but perhaps even more horrible, both in quantity and quality, between countries calling themselves civilised. Mr. Nevinson described what he had seen at Dixmude in October, and at Ypres, where the soldiers, marching out to face horrors of which it was almost impossible to speak, went on their way singing "Tipperary." The life in the trenches was a strain on the nerves which it was impossible to describe. But the fate of women in war was immeasurably more horrible even than that of the men, and this was the case not in this war only, but in every war that he had ever known.

Miss Jebb discussed the responsibility for war. It was due, she said, to the spirit of pride which made patriotism consist in vaunting one country and despising all the rest; and of terror which put everyone in a state of nerves. But it was not only militarists who were responsible for wars. On the contrary, those who have had a revelation of omnipotent love, and who might have saved the world from war if they had shown it the way, had the supreme responsibility. Pride and terror were not found only among militarists, journalists, scare-mongers, politicians, and armament makers; they were found among pacifists, who thought themselves better than other people, and despised their opponents; among women who, being the guardians of the young and of the old, had the power to form the social code; among all uncharitable people, who loaded the rifle which killed another man. "It is not the militarists who make wars, but we ourselves."

Miss Royden was called upon at the last moment to take the place of Miss Catherine Marshall, who was prevented from attending by illness. Miss Royden expressed her regret at the loss sustained by the Conference in the absence of Miss Marshall, who, though her name had not been so prominently before the public as that of some other leaders of the Woman's Movement, had always seemed to her to be the statesman of the movement, and a statesman who was also something of a prophet.

She did not know what Miss Marshall had intended to say to them, and she herself had only time to emphasise the profound enmity between militarism and feminism. War meant something worse to women than it could ever mean to men. In spite of the hideous sufferings of the soldiers, it remained a fact that when Mr. Nevinson had described them and turned to the sufferings of the women, he could only be silent. One could say the worst that could happen to a man was a glorious death, or "honourable scars"; the worst that could happen to a woman was what the world calls, unthinkingly, "dishonour."

War meant, moreover, the destruction of homes, and lives, and civilisation—all that women gave their lives to build up. It meant that physical force was exalted above spiritual force, and the Woman's Movement stood or fell with the principle that spiritual force is greater than physical. Wherever militarism rules, women become merely breeders of soldiers. In Germany women were in a much worse position than in Russia, which we have regarded as a less civilised country; and Russia (its people, not its Government) is a profoundly pacifist race. In France, the legal position of women was abominable; their position in fact and practice was good. The code of law was given to them by Napoleon, and reflected the militarist spirit in all its brutality. But since then, France had become a pacifist country, and with the growth of pacifism, the position of women had improved, and was now far better than the law suggested.

The sufferings of women in the past would not be in vain if they turned them now to account, and because they had suffered so much, determined to inflict suffering on no one.

Dr. Orchard spoke of the danger of boasting of a righteous cause; nothing was more likely to lead to Pharisaism. Moreover, if we boasted of *our* righteousness, we were apt to feel that if we were defeated righteousness would disappear. If we believed in God and His righteousness, we need not fear this. There was no profanity like that of believing that God could not do without us, and to justify war on these grounds was worse than to justify it as Bernhardi did on biological grounds.

Mr. Gray dealt with the problem of war in our own lives. Peace, he said, was a by-product of right thought, and the wrong thought that made war possible was the thought that one man's good could be gained apart from the good of others, or even *against* the good of others. We had so organised our industrial life that this delusion looked like truth, and, in a material sense actually *was* truth—one man's gain is another man's loss. Any man who knew this, and consented to it, and lived by it, was a man to whom war between nations was natural, and seemed in the nature of things. Well-being is a social thing, and until we realised this, we should always have wars. "He who would be no slave must consent to have no slaves." Economists had preached this truth now for some time, and we must make it our own in the moral sphere as they in the economic sphere. The Woman's Movement ought to help to cast out the illusion that one man's good was another man's loss; but too often women rather urged men on than held them back from fighting Christianity was the only solution.

Mrs. McKenzie said that the Woman's Movement had already done much to make women realise their social responsibilities. It was they, rather than the Churches, who were sensitive to great social wrongs and social suffering. Mr. Asquith spoke of those who talked of peace now as "the twittering of sparrows." The twittering of sparrows was a very lovely sound when it came with the awakening dawn after a long night of darkness. Mrs. McKenzie went on to give instances of women working ninety-five hours a week many times since the war broke out. The nation rested on the toils of such women. What were we going to do about it? How were we to come nearer to God if we could not come nearer to our fellow men? The Woman's Movement was helping to bring us all together.

The Bishop of Lincoln interpreted Christ's saying that He came "not to bring peace, but a sword." Every Christian must be in a condition of perpetual warfare against wrong, and if peace were to mean rest, it was a worse danger than war. The age of Constantine was far more dangerous to the Church of Christ than the age of Marcus Aurelius. And the truce proclaimed in England to-day merely meant that reform at home was annulled by war abroad. Might the war abroad soon end, and give way to the real war against wrong at home! Peace, the Bishop believed, in the military sense, could only be brought about by the formation of a United States of Europe, in which every nationality should be free to develop on its own lines.

The idea of the Christian warfare in peace was developed by Mr. Woods, who appealed for some understanding of the romance of real peace, and the horror of the state of "non-war" which was all that "peace" had hitherto been taken to mean. The atrocities of war were not worse than the horrors of "non-war," and the retreat from Moscow had caused fewer deaths than the cornering for one winter of the coal supply in America.

Miss Royden argued that the two conflicting principles on which the world tried to govern itself were those of love and selfishness. Love come into the world first through the relation of motherhood; but something more was needed if love were not to be compatible with an enlarged kind of selfishness. The Woman's Movement should be Christianised, and the principle of selfishness boldly abandoned for the principles of love. Selfishness created the problem of war; love dispelled it.

The closing address was given by Mr. Temple, who reminded his audience that the appeal to hardness and self-sacrifice was always the one to which the world responded, from Garibaldi's appeal to the defenders of Rome, to Christ's demand on His disciples that they should "take up the cross and follow Him."

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War Pamphlets.

Prussianism and its Destruction. (Heinemann. 1s.)
Letter to an Ex-Pacifist. The Force of Pacifism. The Tyranny of the Super-State. (Garden City Press, Letchworth. 1d.)
Christ and War. (James Clarke & Co. 1s.)
Christianity and Force. Germany and Germans. Humphrey Milford. (Oxford University Press. 2d.)
War and the Workers. The International Industry of War. (The Union of Democratic Control. 1d.)
Is Britain Blameless? Belgium and the Scrap of Paper. How the War Came. (The National Labour Press. 1d.)
An Appeal to Suffragists. (Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation.)
The World in Alliance. (W. Southwood & Co. 1s.)
The Russian Problem. (Constable. 1s.)
Poland, Russia and the War. (St. Catherine Press, 34, Norfolk Street. 3d.)
Pastoral Letter of Cardinal Mercier. (Burns & Oates. 2d.)
The Idols, and The Rights of Small Nationalities. (Bowes & Bowes. 6d.)

The great majority of war pamphlets is the production of pacifists. Of all the pamphlets and booklets we have to review this month there is not even one written by an author who regards war as the normal state of human society, none who assumes that the effective striking force of a nation is the measure of its greatness. On the contrary, the half-mystical, half materialistic theories of Bernhardi are again resolved into their component fallacies by the powerful solvent of unimpassioned reason: sincere spirits are wrestling with the question whether a Christian may consistently fight even in a just cause: and more constructive minds are occupied in planning the peace of Europe and the world.

First among the reasoning pacifists comes Mr. Norman Angell, with his "Prussianism and its Destruction," not entirely a new work, for it includes the second part of "The Great Illusion," which dealt with "the human nature and morals" of war. Surely Norman Angell is the prince of pamphleteers! The most constant and unscrupulous misrepresentation is powerless against him. He simply re-states his case more clearly, and develops it further, without a touch of asperity or impatience, and with more care than ever not to misrepresent his opponents. Have we any other writer whose manner in controversy is so admirable? Reason is his only weapon; he will stoop to no tricks, to no sticks and stones, while mud simply does not exist for him. Militarism has no fairer hearing than in the writings of Norman Angell. Its advocates' books and speeches are quoted at most generous length, heard to the end without interruption, and answered with a sober courtesy that will not condescend to ridicule even an absurdity. He merely explains, and explains more carefully, and then, if he is answered with foolishness or abuse—explains again.

Much less to be admired, though they are cleverly written, are three pamphlets by Mr. Edward G. Smith, who claims for Pacifism the true application of the Nietzschean ideal. There are suggestions of depth and sincerity in these pamphlets, but a touch of half-Shavian cleverness in their manner. It is natural, and probably right, to feel that a true pacifist ought to be suffering more intensely than anyone during war: so that, at such a time, the slightest resort to conscious cleverness endangers his message. "The Force of Pacifism" and the "Letter to an Ex-Pacifist" are the best of these three papers.

The relation of Christianity to Pacifism is discussed at length in "Christ and War," by William E. Wilson, B.D., a little book in which Christian precept is reconciled with true political practice, while Mr. Hogg's pamphlet, "Christianity and Force" is one of the best that has yet appeared on this subject. Mr. Hogg's argument is that the old law, "An eye for an eye," was a law of retributive justice. Christ came, not to destroy the law, but to give a new law—the law of non-resistance to the evil-doer. If we cannot live up to the new law, we must uphold the old one, which Christ did not condemn. This argument, of course, justifies no Christian, *as a Christian*, in bearing arms; but it claims for all men, who resort to force in a just cause, the sanction of a law which Christ recognised. But Mr. Hogg is discouraging when he suggests that there is no moral value in attempts to follow the law of Christ unless they spring from a love as pure and great as His, and that it is better to fall back on the old law than to obey the new imperfectly. This reasoning tends to relegate the law of Christ to the realm of abstractions or to the practice of a few saints. It leads to acceptance of the "double standard" which has always enfeebled Christianity, and every other religion also. Except for this, Mr. Hogg's pamphlet seems to be a very valuable one. It is one of the "Papers for War-Time," of which series also is "Germany and Germans," by Miss McDougall, a study of those elements in German patriotism with which we can, and ought, to sympathise.

There is a good bunch of pamphlets representative of labour and democratic opinion, of which the ablest and most significant are Mr. Brailsford's "Belgium and the Scrap of Paper," and the "International Industry of War"—the latter a formidable indictment of the corrupt trade in armament. In this country, as in Russia, France, and Germany, organised labour is the most determined enemy of the diplomacy which preceded the war, as all these pamphlets bear witness. Most of their criticism is just and reasonable, and few could seriously defend a diplomatic system which led to such appalling disaster. But it is strange that the Independent Labour Party should have issued as their statement of "How the War Came" a pamphlet which sets out to prove that Russia was far more responsible for the war than Germany, and that its

author should have materially assisted the "proof" by omitting such an important fact as that most of the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia was accepted, and the rest submitted to arbitration! If the intention is to "restore the balance of popular criticism" by exaggeration on the opposite side, it is not quite worthy of the I.L.P.

The "Appeal to Suffragists" issued by the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation is a finely-worded claim for a world-policy for women, and it is good to see that Irish Suffragists are beginning an educational campaign in "world-politic." Mrs. Fawcett's noble message, "Believe and hope," is printed at the head of the appeal. This, we may hope, is one of the many beginnings of the great work of establishing public rights, which we dare not delay. It is not for nothing that so many minds are now planning how to give effect to that sense of international justice, of which the very existence is denied by militarists, who nevertheless rely upon it to enlist the enthusiasm of the masses in war. "The World in Alliance," by Mr. Frank N. Keen, LL.B., is a consideration, by one learned in law, of the possibility of a permanent international congress. The case is well put, modestly and tentatively, but with knowledge and force.

Professor Vinogradoff's excellent little book on "The Russian Problem" gives one some idea of its vastness, and also of the terrible strength of the Government of so huge a country. There is no European problem so portentous as the future of Russia. Even Professor Vinogradoff's liberal hopes are tinged with despair at its immensity. Far more sanguine is the message of Mr. Laurence Alma Tadema's pamphlet on "Poland, Russia and the War." This is written to assure us that Russia means to keep her word, and that Poland believes it. Some interesting official documents are reproduced in demonstration of these facts. But there is still room for the enthusiasm of France and England to help, and to make assurance more certain still.

Cardinal Mercier's pastoral letter is a profoundly moving document, but it is indeed no wonder that the Germans suppressed it, for your militarist can do nothing else but suppress; and so this eloquent letter is now being read all over the world, and will surely have a place in history!

As for M. Romain Rolland's pamphlet "The Idols," it has suffered something in translation, no doubt; but this author's writings have a special fragrance in these days, and a peculiar power, for, almost alone among the famous writers of Europe, he still stands confident in the strength of—

"Love, that what time his own hands guard his head,
The whole world's wrath and strength shall not strike dead."

P. A. M.

Correspondence.

COMPASSION.

Madam,—With reference to your note last week under the heading "Compassion" in the "Notes and News" column, I should like to bring to your notice the following facts:—

(1) A war correspondent of the New York *Outlook* (a paper entirely on the side of the Allies), writing of his experiences with the German armies during their advance from Belgium to the Marne, says that he only came across one authenticated case of violation during the whole of that march. He heard many rumours, but that was the only one that, as far as he could trace, rested on fact. This, of course, is the observation of one man, and necessarily a limited observation, but the article seemed honest and impartial.

(2) According to the *British Weekly* of January 21st, 1915, the Rev. Thos. Phillips, B.A., of the Central Baptist Church, Bloomsbury, in a sermon on the previous Sunday, said that he knew of one house not a mile away which contained fifty young girls who had been outraged in the last four or five months.

(3) In a report of the National Free Church Council meetings, in the *British Weekly* of last Thursday, the writer, the Rev. Geo. Eayrs, speaking of Mrs. Geo. Morgan's plea for "the sad, sinning, and sinned against host of unmarried mothers which we have in our midst," says that he was told of one centre where the Poor Law authorities are making provision for four hundred such sad cases. If these things are true, our talk of German outrage is sheer hypocrisy.

A. G. Watson.

THE WORST SUFFERERS IN WAR TIME.

Madam,—In commenting on the announcement by Mr. Asquith of the Government's fresh policy towards Germany, I do not wish to express disapproval or approval. War is out of the region of ordinary ethics, and it is no longer a question between right and wrong, but between two wrongs. But I do wish most emphatically to say this: men have denied to women the right to self-government because they have said that women cannot fight. This is one more colossal example of the fact that though women do not fight, they *are fought*.

It is well known that in dear and scarce food time, the first and chief victims—because of the necessity of keeping fit the bread-winner, or in war time the fighter—are the women and children.

Gertrude A. Combes.

TYRANNY OF FASHION.

Madam,—The letter from "Early Victorian" is very interesting in last week's Common Cause. I am sure I am only one of thousands of women who long to be free from the tyranny of fashion. It consumes so much time and also causes so much worry. But unless women of high position take the matter up, and large societies of women agree to fall in, it seems almost hopeless to expect any freedom in the matter. But I think women are in better mood for such a change than before the war, and I am hoping our Society can do something to help free us from the tyranny of changing fashions.

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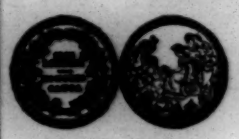
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All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager,* The Common Cause, *14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Wednesday. Advertisement representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time suspended their ordinary political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war.

Women and War Service.

We are on the eve of an important experiment—important even at this time of crisis and almost daily experiment. The need for men at the front has created the inevitable need for workers at home, and the Government has turned to women to meet the national crisis. We regret that the warning uttered by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies months ago, at the beginning of the war, was not acted upon, and their offer of help in organising and training women accepted. It is true that war on the present scale is an experience so new and so overwhelming that much dislocation and unpreparedness must be looked for and forgiven; but this was a need for which the example of France should surely have prepared us, even in a country where all the men are not taken. And now that the pinch has come, it will be a gigantic task to organise and supply the labour required. It is certain that the various women's societies, all of them willing and anxious to help, could by this time have done half this work, had they been allowed. Even without Governmental encouragement, much has been done, and well done. But the sudden demand for women's labour on an enormous scale and at the shortest possible notice, means that the supply must necessarily be less efficiently trained and organised than it might have been, had we been set to work on it eight months ago.

The problem of training and organisation must be taken in hand without any further delay. Women are being urged to train as physicians and surgeons, in view of the threatened shortage of doctors, but the expense of such training must deter many who are admirably fitted for such work, and it would be worth while to give help out of public funds to enable suitable women to qualify. Help is also needed to ensure an adequate supply of nurses. Probationers are wanted; but the number of women who can afford to train is limited, and a maintenance grant might well be offered to those who have no private means, as it has been provided out of the Queen's Work for Women Fund to girls training for clerical work and various branches of manual labour. So far women of good education have been unfairly neglected by the different Relief Committees, and it will be a shameful waste of good material if their services are lost to the State through want of the means to train for a profession.

Again, in the Civil Service, there must be many positions in which men could be replaced by women. The Report of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service recommended that greater use should be made of women's work, but since its publication, very few fresh posts have been thrown open to them. As was pointed out in *The Times* of March 19th, a number of posts in Government Departments are given to young men from Oxford and Cambridge, who have no special experience or qualifications beyond a good general education, and their work could be done quite as well by college women. There is, indeed, an increasing need for women in all Government offices, above all, at the Local Government Board and the Board of Education. When it is remembered that the former largely controls the housing question, and the latter is concerned with the training and education of children, it seems sufficiently grotesque that we should still be pleading for the co-operation of women in such matters. What we are concerned here to urge is that now is the

time to put women not only in executive posts, but at the heads of departments, on equal terms with men, to frame and administer policy as well as carry out work. The admirable work done by Miss Mona Wilson as an Insurance Commissioner should embolden a timid male Government to fresh advance ; and it is clear that only when women are among those at headquarters will other women work their best and under the best conditions. Constant reports of sweating, overtime, and underpay remind us that there are still (after twenty years!) only twenty women factory-inspectors. They also are being "sweated." Why not double, treble, or quadruple their numbers? The demand for women in the factories increases, and with it the work of the factory-inspector. Already large numbers of women are being employed in ammunition factories, where they have proved particularly expert in making shrapnel shells, and there is room for many more. In making uniforms, women are also doing excellent service—though it is to be feared that they are in many cases being paid a very inadequate wage—and they are now beginning to enter branches of the boot trade hitherto closed to them, in which their work is urgently needed. In agriculture, as motor drivers, omnibus conductors (of whom a shortage is now reported), lift attendants, and in hundreds of other capacities, women can quite well set men free, though in some a period of training will first be needed.

It is necessary, therefore, for women to take the matter up. The need of their country is paramount, and women themselves have much to gain, even if patriotism did not demand—as it does—the best response that they can make. There is little that men can do that women cannot, if they have equal training, wage, and opportunity. That little merely demands a certain amount of reorganization of the work, in order that work for which the muscular strength of men is necessary may be reserved for them, and the other parts of the industry in question given to the women. Here, however, a warning should be entered. There is a danger in all such reorganization, that the "plums" of the work may be taken out, given to the women, and *paid at a lower rate*. We are told that exactly this danger exists already in the shortage of agricultural labour. Dairy work is among the best-paid of such work, and already it is suggested that this should be done by women, not at the rate for dairy work, but at the rate for women—a very different matter!

If women allow themselves to be used as a means of lowering the rate of pay against men, their coming into the industries now clamouring for them will be worse than useless. It will be disastrous. Nor can we think that either the Government or other employers of labour seriously contemplate using the patriotic impulse which has taken men to the front to serve their country, as a means to lower their rates of pay when the war is over, and they return to enter the labour market again. Yet, unless it is absolutely insisted on that women must receive the same rates, this is what will inevitably happen. We cannot too strongly urge upon all concerned the principle that equal pay for equal work must be demanded and enforced.

If, however, women are to receive proper pay, they ought to be trained and efficient workers. The training which Suffragists have been demanding for women for years has too often and too generally been denied to them. Now we must all throw ourselves into the organization of such training as quickly as possible. It cannot be what it might have been ; but what is possible must be done at once.

The women should also, as far as possible, be organized. We trust that, in view of the fact that their labour is being demanded, and will certainly be used, the men's unions will, in every case in which they are at present closed to women, at once make women eligible for membership. It will not otherwise be possible to prevent the lowering of rates by women, who are unorganized, unenfranchised, and therefore unable to protect themselves. The example of the weavers in Lancashire should be followed, and equal pay for equal work may be secured.

Finally, we press upon the Government the duty of enfranchising the women, whose ability and whose duty to serve their country no less than men, is now being so publicly recognised. If it is a fact that the Government intends to take over workshops in which the production of war-munitions can, if necessary, be carried on, it becomes grotesque to deny any longer the need of women for political protection. And that they have a right to it, based upon service, can no longer be denied by the most obstinate of Anti-suffragists. We commend this cause to the consideration of the Government, and we expect that, as a result of this great demand for the labour and services of women, a resolution urging their political enfranchisement will be laid before the Congress meeting to decide the settlement after the war.

Women in Agriculture.

There has been much discussion of late as to the employment of women in agriculture, and strong emotions have, in consequence, been stirred. In the main, the deliberators seem to group themselves into three distinct schools of thought :—

(1) The sincere believers in the national benefits resulting from the employment of women on the land.

(2) The upholders of "the protection of Woman" theory, who deny women's physical capacity for work in the fields. These solemnly warn the public of the physical injury to women themselves, and therefore to the nation at large, should women be allowed to undertake men's rural tasks.

(3) The advocates of "cheap labour" on the land during the present crisis (and at all times). Mainly on that count, this group favours the "back to the land" propaganda as applied to women.

It may, therefore, be useful to recall some historic evidence as to this matter.

It is, of course, undeniable that, from the dawn of the world's history, women *have* laboured on the land. And, with all due sympathy for the "protectors of woman" group, there appears to be no record of women's incapacity for such work. Indeed, quite a number of students of "Primitive Women," such as Mr. O. T. Mason, assume that women were not only the originators of agriculture and horticulture, but the sole executants of these arts.

Be that as it may, the earliest agricultural records of this country (for, after all, it is the British fields which are now concerning us) show that a large proportion of women worked on the land. There is even an ordinance extant of 1394, enforcing that "every man or woman, free or bond," who was not otherwise employed, and had no income from the land, must serve as a labourer on it when required.

About two centuries later, a glimpse is afforded in Fitzherbert's "Book on Husbandrie," of the usual avocations of a farmer's wife. She had to "wynowe all manner of cornes, to make malte, to shere corne, and in time of nede, to help her husband fyll the mucke wayne and dounge cart, dryve the plough, lode heye, corne, and such other." Added to which services, she undertook to "sel butter, cheese, milke, eggs, chekyns, hennes, and geese," and in odd intervals she, of course, performed the unmentioned tasks of rearing a family, and caring for the needs of husband, servants, and labourers on the farm.

Clearly, no inherent incapacity of women for physical labour was recognised in mediæval England. Later, when the small family holdings passed into the large farm system, the women took their share in agricultural work as day labourers, as well as in the old-time residential farm-work. And by the end of the eighteenth century the exploitation of women's and children's labour in the fields had set in. Then arose the iniquitous "gang-system" (*i.e.*, the itinerant employment on the land of groups of women and children and young persons, each band being under the supervision of a gang-master). Women were by this means increasingly employed in agriculture until public opinion became agitated on the matter, and Government inquiries were instituted. Thus, the official Reports on the Employment of Women and Children in Agriculture were published in 1843 and 1867.

From the evidence there collected, it may be adduced that women were employed in hay-making and harvest-work, weeding (spoken of variously as couching, twitching, &c.), clearing the soil of stones, turnip-hoeing, singling and storing, potato-digging and storing, dairying, leading horses and bullocks to plough, manuring land, sowing and planting, fruit-picking, &c. —in short, in all the tasks of the present masculine "farm-hand." There is abundant evidence in these publications of the prevailing opinion as to the effects of such work on women and on family life. A few extracts, taken at random, may serve in illustration :—

(1) Evidence of Mary Hunt (wife of a Wiltshire agricultural labourer).

"I am in my fiftieth year. I have had twelve children, and, if it please God, I shall very soon have my thirteenth. . . . I was always better when out at work in the fields, and as for hard work I was never hurt by it."

(2) Evidence of Mary Haynes (widow, Wiltshire).

"I have been accustomed to work in the fields for the last sixteen years all the year through, except just the winter months. . . . I am a good reaper, as good as many men. . . . I have not a change of clothes, but I have never had my health affected by the hardness of the work or damp things."

(3) Evidence of Mary Puddicombe (wife of an Exeter agricultural labourer).

". . . I worked in the fields many years after I married; lately I have done washing. I think washing is harder than working in the fields."

(4) Evidence of Mr. J. E. Cutliffe (surgeon, of Southampton, and one of the Medical Officers of the South Molton Union).

". . . Women are seldom employed in agricultural labour so as to injure their health. On the contrary, they are, generally speaking, the most robust and healthy females we meet with."

The limitations of a single article forbid further quotations, but, from the prevailing opinion reflected in the Reports, it may be assumed that women satisfactorily performed the varying work in the fields dictated by the seasons without injury to themselves or to the succeeding generation. In truth, the objections to women's rural labour raised at this period when they largely worked on the land, centred round matters far removed from physical well-being. Amongst the peasantry, it was the moral aspect of the question which kindled their opposition, and they rightly denounced the evils attendant on "mixed gangs," working and sleeping far from home. They pointed, also with justice, to the moral deterioration of girls forced to hear a constant flow of bad language from their men-companions of the spade. And amongst the wealthier classes, the chief complaint against women's work on the land arose from the fact that the girls so employed did not want to change their employment, and were thus "spoilt for service" (*i.e.*, domestic service).

Thus, Mr. J. E. White, an Assistant Commissioner, remarks in the 1867 Report, "A feeling against females following field work . . . is common, and is shared by many employers, as well as by other classes. A reason commonly given is that it unfits them and gives them a distaste for domestic service."

The bulk of this official evidence, indeed, leads to the conclusion that the physical health of the women was unimpaired by their work on the land, and that the real danger of such employment lay in the exploitation of their labour. Again and again it crops up that the women were paid at the rate of "half the men's wages," *irrespective of the value of the work.* Thus the wages of *all* agricultural labour was debased, and the whole rural population was forced to exist in shamefully overcrowded homes, on a diet often consisting only of "potatoes and salt," an inadequate supply of bread, and "burnt crust tea."

Such were the chief dangers when the women were employed in agriculture. The advocates of the "protection of woman" theory would, therefore be more wisely employed at the present juncture in a crusade for better conditions and a fair rate of wage for all agricultural labourers, rather than in an attempt to close a healthful occupation to women.

And, as for the promoters of a "cheap labour" system on the land, let them look back to the bad old days of the past, when the exploitation of women's and children's labour in the fields spelled ruin to the men and women employed in agriculture, as well as to agriculture itself.

L. Keyser Yates.

THE WORLD UNION OF WOMEN.

Frauenbe Strebuagen, the organ of the German-Swiss Women's Movement, publishes in its March number a stirring appeal to women to unite in the World Union of Women in working for peace and goodwill and a spirit of love between nations, which shall take the place of the despair and hatred which seem to fill the world. "It is not enough, in our compassion, to heal the wounds which war has caused, and to await the end of the catastrophe, suffering in silence; we need a *new spirit*, from which alone true peace can blossom." Women of all nations, religious and political beliefs, are eligible for membership of the World Union of Women, which aims at working in co-operation with other peace societies. The Headquarters of the Union are in Geneva, Rue de Rhône 6.

"COMMON CAUSE" SELLING.

If you cannot sell "The Common Cause" yourself please send us some money so that we may employ out of work women to sell the paper. Donations should be sent to the Manager, "The Common Cause," 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.

A list of important London pitches is kept at the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, and at the "C.C." office, and we want volunteers.

Marble Arch Depôt.—Copies can be obtained for Hyde Park sellers on Sunday afternoons from 44, Great Cumberland Place, W.

Kensington Depôt.—Miss Bryan, 7, Stratford Road, Kensington. Sellers in this neighbourhood may apply to her house for copies of the paper.

N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

French Unit.

Happily, it appears that the typhoid epidemic in the Soissons region of France is steadily decreasing, to such an extent that the military medical authorities no longer consider there is need for us to start the hospital at Montataire, which was being planned. Instead we are extending the accommodation at Royaumont by 100 beds, so that this Hospital will be twice its original size. Four new nurses have just gone out, and the staff will be augmented as soon as necessary in proportion to the increase of patients.

We are hoping to get a pathological laboratory at work at the Abbaye before long, as well as in Serbia. Mrs. Harley telegraphs that "patients are pouring in," and she is evidently at work with all her usual energy, and she and the doctors are coping successfully with the demands made on their resources.

Miss Cicely Hamilton writes on March 14th:—

"As I expect you have heard from other sources, our beds are filling up rapidly—eighteen patients arrived yesterday, fourteen of them late last night. The doctors (not to mention the chauffeurs) are delighted with the new arrangement—that our motors are to fetch them straight from the station, so that they do not really pass through Creil hospital and come to us direct from the front.

"We have heard very heavy firing lately; and yesterday, when I had a day off and took a bicycle ride to Clermont, I heard it, loud and continuous, as I had never heard it before. I believe we got to within about fifteen miles of the French front, and as it was a still day and the road ran along the top of a high ridge, with nothing to break the sound, you might have thought it nearer—the constant pattering thud made me realise for the first time how awful the din must be when you really are in the midst of it. I suppose you get used to anything in time; but I felt yesterday that I quite understood how men go mad with the noise."

Serbian Unit.

From Dr. Eleanor Soltau we hear, in a letter of March 5th:—"It is perfectly splendid, the way the committee and the public have responded to the appeals for Serbia, and the speed with which these nurses have been sent out is most encouraging."

We hope before long to send out other units to Serbia and France. The London Society has taken up the cause of the hospitals with great enthusiasm, and Lady Cowdray and the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves are acting as Treasurers for this part of the work.

Dr. Elsie Inglis is now on a short speaking tour in England and Wales, and from all parts of the kingdom offers of help in money and kind are coming in daily; yet we are still very far from the £50,000 asked for in the Committee's most recent appeal.

The following gifts in kind are needed at the present time, and will be gratefully received by Dr. Inglis, at 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh:—

Blankets (old or new), bedroom slippers, bandages, hot-water bags, draw-sheets, feather pillows, handkerchiefs, sheets, shirts (day-flannel and cotton), men's clothing (old or new), dressing gowns, pyjamas, pillow slips, towels of all sorts, pants.

London Units for N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital.

The London Society is raising two Units for the Scottish Women's Hospitals. The first will be sent out to France, where the need has become acute during the last week or two; the second as soon as possible afterwards to Serbia. All contributions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Lady Cowdray, at 58, Victoria Street, S.W..

Offers of rooms for drawing-room meetings will be very gratefully received.

On Tuesday, the 23rd, a meeting in aid of the London Units was held at Bedford College, by kind invitation of the Principal. The chair was taken by Lady Frances Balfour, and Miss Sterling afterwards appealed for help. Dr. Inglis, who is only in London for a few days, gave an entertaining account of the difficulties that had attended the equipping and sending out of the first units. She then spoke of the appreciation of their work shown by the military authorities in France, Serbia, and Belgium, and of how the French had asked them to double the number of their beds at Royaumont, and the Serbian Government, although it has already asked for and got twice as many more doctors and nurses and stores as were first sent out, are still wanting more. Two of the bombs dropped by Zeppelins on Sunday fell on a village only a mile and a-half from the Royaumont.

HINDUSTANI IN THE HOSPITALS.

We regret the name of the compiler of the "Vocabulary of Hindustani Words for Use in Hospital," mentioned in last week's issue, was incorrectly given. It should be Miss E. Vidal Fear.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss K. D. Courtney.
Miss C. E. Marshall (Parliamentary).
Miss Emily M. Leaf (Press).
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Report of the Literature Department.

The Editor of *The Nation* has kindly permitted the National Union to reprint an article which appeared on February 13th, on "Women and War" (A 106, price ½d.). A new leaflet, summarising the activities of the Union, is also issued this week, "War Time Work in the National Union" (B 121, price 9d. per 100). Societies are asked to distribute this widely. Orders for literature should now be sent to the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, and also orders for books in connection with the Educational Courses, the syllabus of which will shortly be sent out.

Editorship of "The Common Cause."

Miss Lyon has been appointed to the editorship of The Common Cause, and will take charge from next week.

Serbian Hospital Unit.

We have received £164 14s. for the Serbian Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospital, in response to Mr. Ch. Roden Buxton's appeal in *The Daily News* of March 12th. Of the seventy-four contributions which make up that sum, many are from working men and women, and one is from poor school children "given in farthings and halfpennies."

Work and Help Wanted.

We have a sad case on our hands of a young girl of about twenty-one, with an illegitimate child of eight months. Will anyone undertake to give her work and help? Her devotion to her baby is pathetic, and she has a fixed idea that there is a plot to take it from her. We will, of course, give full particulars of the case to anyone who offers to help her.

LOST LETTERS.

In view of the fact that several letters containing Cheques and Postal Orders have lately failed to reach us, we shall be glad if any contributors who have not received an acknowledgment will communicate at once with the Hon. Treasurer, at 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. We would also suggest that in order to ensure safe delivery all letters containing money should be registered and that all cheques and postal orders should be crossed.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1914	726	15	3
Received from March 13th to March 20th, 1915:—			
Subscriptions.			
Mrs. Langley Browne		10	6
Miss G. E. Swithinbank ...		2	6
Miss Mary C. Jones		1	0
Miss M. L. Despard		5	0
Miss Dorothea L. Hollins ...	1	1	0
Miss A. E. Burden		2	0
Affiliation Fees.			
Stafford W.S.S.		12	6
Exmouth W.S.S.		16	3
St. Ives W.S.S.	1	1	6
Three Towns and District W.S.S.	1	13	6
Alva W.S.S.		6	3
Hastings and St. Leonards W.S.S.	1	17	6
Malvern W.S.S.	1	6	9
	£736	11	6

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	4,182	8	7
W. J. W.		1	0
A Friend "B." (5th donation)	2	0	0
Staff and Pupils, Gloucestershire School of Domestic Science (Belgian Relief, 8th weekly donation)	1	0	0
Miss E. M. Leaf (R.S.P.C.A. Horse Ambulance)	2	10	0
Miss V. Partington (6th monthly donation)		5	0
Miss C. M. Forster (8th monthly donation)		5	0
Miss C. M. Forster (Girls' Recreation Rooms)		5	0
Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund:—			
Friends "B." (5th donation)	2	0	0
Miss Buxton	1	0	0
Miss Ethel Buxton	1	0	0
Mr. E. W. Thomas	1	0	0
Mrs. Hargreaves		10	0
Received for the Scottish Women's Hospital	151	12	0
	£4,345	16	7

Annual Meeting Appeal for the Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	983	12	0
Mr. G. Rome Hall, M.D. ...	2	0	0
Miss Phyllis A. Jones		5	0
Miss C. E. Marshall	1	0	0
Mrs. K. St. O Eustace Smith	10	0	0
Miss Geraldine Cooke		10	0
Mrs C. W. Benson	10	0	0
"D."	1	0	0
	£1,008	7	0

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N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

Further Donations.

	£	s.	d.
Further donations received to March 20th, 1915 :—			
Forward as per list of March 13th, 1915	12,768	13	11
Winchester Society, per Miss Souter (£3 of this for Serbia)	7	13	0
Mrs. John Morris, per W. H. Adams (Serbia)	5	5	0
"Anonymous"	2	0	0
Mrs. Mathewson	3	3	0
The Misses Calton (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
Miss Mary Hayton (Serbia) ...	1	1	0
The Misses Kininmonth (Serbia)		10	0
Part profits from sale of booklet, "The Secret Voice," per Miss F. A. Croal	2	2	0
Miss J. M. Brown (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
Dr. Jessie Valentine (Serbia)		5	0
Mr. D. Matheson		10	0
Miss Reoch	5	0	0
Edinburgh Provincial Training College (2nd donation, Serbia)	1	0	0
Falkirk W.S.S., per Miss Taylor	15	0	0
Robt. Duncan, Esq. (2nd donation)	2	0	0
Mrs. Little (Serbia)	10	0	0
Collected by Mrs. Campbell Gibson (for "Buckingham Terrace" Bed)	52	10	9
Mrs. and Miss Crawford ...	2	2	0
H. Howat Jackton		10	0
Mrs. Lillias J. Duncan	3	0	0
A. R. Simpson, Esq.	2	2	0
Miss Gordon		5	0
Merioneth Suffrage Society, per Mrs. Webster (2nd donation—including £1 11s., sale of picture given by Miss B. A. Pughe)	2	0	0
Mrs. K. M. Osler (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
"Anonymous," per Mrs. K. M. Osler (Serbia)	1	0	0
Dr. McDowall (Serbia)	1	0	0
Leven W.S.S.—Result of Flag Day, per Mrs. Reid, Hon. Treas. (to name three Beds: 1. Sister Gray's ward, Abbaye de Royaumont; 2. Calais; 3. Kraguievatz; each to be called "Leven and District" Bed)	78	0	0
The Misses Clink, per Mrs. Sime, M.A.	2	2	0
Miss T. Chambers		2	6
Miss Annie Swift and Friends	1	6	0
Miss Hutchison	2	0	0
Miss Nimmo (Serbia)	1	0	0
Miss Woolley	5	0	0
Mrs. M. C. Watson	1	0	0
Lord Haldane (Serbia)	50	0	0
J. C. Graham, Esq.	2	2	0
H. Murray, Esq.		10	0
Mr. and Mrs. D. Y. Cameron	5	0	0
Per Miss H. C. Deneke, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford :— Oxford Women Students' S.W.S., collected at Dr. Inglis's meeting in Oxford, February 2nd (£9 7s.), Miss Celia Cook (3s.), Miss Shipley (6s. 6d.), "Anonymous" (3s. 6d.), Miss M. Deneke (£5), Professor Geldart (£5), Miss H. Mack (£5)—(to name "Oxford Women Students' Society" Bed)	25	0	0
And. T. Mackay, Esq.	1	0	0
Miss Young	3	0	0
"Mrs. P." (for France) ...	1	0	0
Miss M. S. Murray	1	1	0
Newton-le-Willows Branch W.S.S., per Miss Watkins (France)	3	4	0
Miss F. E. Ingram		5	0
Miss Alice Wood (further donation)	1	0	0
Mrs. Annie T. Webb (Belgian or French Unit)	5	0	0
Miss L. Pollok (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
"Anonymous," Barrhead ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Whitehouse (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Walker (Easter gift for Mr. Smith and Mr. Camfield, Serbia)	10	0	0
Mrs. and the Misses B. and D. Walton Evans (Serbia) ...	2	5	0
Miss D. Browne (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Crawford (Serbia)	2	2	0
The Boys and Masters of Glasgow Academy, per E. Temple, Esq., Rector	3	4	0
Miss H. R. Herbert		10	6
Part of month's subscription, Staff of the Glasgow High School for Girls (Serbia) ...	10	10	0
Per the Principal, Royal Holloway College, Englefield Green, Surrey: Royal Holloway College Association (for France)	20	0	0
Active Service Fund, N.U.W.S.S., per Miss Auerbach, Hon. Treas. — in response to Mrs. Fawcett's Appeal :— Mrs. K. M. Burr (10s.), Mrs. Gandy (£10), Miss A. E. Ridsdale (£1) (Serbia), Miss Margaret Bradley (£ 1s.), Dr. Olive Claydon (£5) (French), Dr. Frances Hoggan (£1 10s.) (Serbia), Miss Holliway (£5 5s.) (Serbia), Professor Haverfield (£1), Mrs. Haverfield (£1) (Serbia), Miss Heath (2s. 6d.) (Serbia), Miss Swithinbank (£1) (French and Serbian), Miss E. Maude (£2) (Serbia), Miss E. M. Edmonds (5s.), Miss E. M. Congdon (10s.), Miss Ethel M. Naish (£3 3s.) (Serbia), Mr. Henry James (£1 1s.), Miss F. M. Sterling (£50) (French), Mrs. W. W. Greg (£1), Mrs. Holland (£25) (Serbia), Miss Clarke and Mrs. Dudley (£5) (Serbia), Mrs. S. M. Russell (£2), Mrs. J. Suttill (£5)	122	7	6
Collected by Miss B. J. Somerville	1	13	6
Collected by Mrs. Baldwin Brown ("Coates" Bed—for donors' names see Supplementary List)	25	17	0
Collected by Mrs. Galbraith ("Douglas" Bed—for donors' names see Supplementary List)	43	1	0
Collected by Mrs. Curle ("Learmonth" Bed — for donors' names see Supplementary List), for France ...	34	17	0
Per Miss McGibbon (towards "Learmonth" Bed) :— Mrs. Ewing (£3), Miss McKenzie (2s. 6d.)	3	2	6
Mrs. Milligan	2	0	0
National Health Insurance Commssion, per J. Stewart-Seggie	1	10	0
Mrs. Thomson (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
Glenfarg W.S.S., per Mrs. Kirkland, Fordel, Glenfarg ("Glenfarg" Bed"—for Serbia) :— Mr., Mrs., and L. Deas (£1), Mrs. Dick, Cowdenbeath (10s.), Wm. and M. Nicoll (5s.), Mrs. J. Bett (4s.), M. Barlas (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Summers (1s. 6d.), Mrs. H. A. Deas (1s.), A. Dalrymple (2s.), Mrs. Dick (3s.), Mrs. McKarsie (£1), E. H. Hill (5s.), Mrs. C. Nicoll (10s.), L. P. Whyte (2s. 6d.), Misses Seaton (£1), Mrs. Hutton (5s.), M. J. Hamilton (7s. 6d.), "A Friend" (2s.), Mrs. Deas (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Kirkland (£10), Miss Morrison (£10), Mrs. Moncrieff Wright (£5), Mrs. Riddell Webster (£2), Miss Riddell Webster (£1), Mrs. Hunter (£1)	35	3	6
Mr. and Mrs. Moir (for the Abbaye)	10	0	0
"W. H. C."	1	0	0
Mrs. E. L. Gibson (Serbia), per Gavin Hamilton	5	0	0
Mrs. Ogilivie	2	2	0
"L. A. M."		5	0
Miss E. G. MacRobert (Serbia)	1	0	0
Mrs. Truninger (Serbia) ...	5	5	0
"Anonymous," Stranraer ...	1	0	0
Miss M. W. Thomas (£1), Miss A. A. Davies (10s.) (Serbia)	1	10	0
Mrs. Marriot Smith	2	0	0
Miss M. E. Endersby		2	0
Miss Stephen	5	0	0
Mrs. Burn	5	0	0
Miss Kate Elliot (Serbia) ...	2	0	0
Miss Paton		10	0
Miss Gordon (Serbia)	1	1	0
Miss Cox	5	0	0
Mr. A. Maclean		5	0
Miss Jane Russell	1	0	0
Miss E. Christie	15	0	0
The Misses Scott	1	0	0
Mrs. George Robson	2	2	0
Miss M. Sherriff	25	0	0
Miss A. N. Smith		1	0
John Logie, Esq.		10	0
R. C. Greig, Esq., C.A.	2	10	0
Mrs. Graham and Miss McTavish, per Miss Reid (Serbia)	5	0	0
Per Miss M. C. Morrison, Hon. Treas., Glasgow W.S.S. :— Proceeds of "Dickens" Entertainment, per Glasgow W.S.S. (£222 10s. 5d., to date)—(to name two Beds in Serbia, "Charles Dickens," and two Beds in France, "Charles Dickens") Collected: Miss Howden (£100), Belhaven Work Party—John Yuill, Esq. (£16 5s. 3d.), Mrs. Alex. Rose (£10), Mrs. W. F. G. Anderson (£10), "J. M. G.," Pollokshields (£3), Mrs. D. Spence Allan (£3) (Serbia), Proceeds of "At Home" given by Mrs. Steven (£2 14s.), Miss W. M. Anderson (£2), Miss Elma Storey (£1 1s.), Mrs. Crosthwaite (£1), Miss Donaldson (10s.) (Serbia), Mrs. and Miss Morrison (10s.), Miss Olive Craik (10s.), Mrs. Lindsay (5s.), Miss McLennan (3s.), Mrs. Curry (2s.)	373	10	8
Miss Gibb	2	0	0
Miss K. M. Loudon, per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas., Edinburgh W.S.S. (to name two Beds—the "Charles Loudon" one in Royaumont and one in Serbia)	50	0	0
Mrs. Nesbit (10s.), Miss Hepburn (10s.)—per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas., Edinburgh W.S.S. (to add to "Edinburgh Society" Bed, No. 2)	1	0	0
Birkenhead and District W.S.S.—further contribution of Members and Friends, per Miss Dalby :— For Serbia (£1), "Birkenhead" Bed, France (12s.), Birkenhead Conservative and Unionist W.F.A. (£5 10s.), ("Birkenhead" Bed)	7	2	0
Miss Jessie Andrew	2	0	0
Girls of St. Brides School, per Miss Bird (to name Bed in Serbia—"St. Brides") ...	25	0	0
Lady Ogilivie Dalgleish (Serbia)	20	0	0
Glasgow Conservative and Unionist W.F.A., per Miss M. Gordon Thomson, Hon. Treas.	9	9	0
"Anonymous" (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
Balance from Entertainment held by the Young Ladies and Gentlemen of Fintry, per J. McN. Edmond, Esq.	2	0	0
Miss J. E. Ferme (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
Mrs. C. Hesketh	1	0	0
Miss E. Stevenson	2	2	0
Mrs. Cochrane (France and Serbia)	5	0	0
"The Four Girl Assistants at 'The Studio,'" per Miss E. Carter (for Serbia)	1	10	0
Miss B. Milner (to name "Bertha" Bed, Serbia) ...	25	0	0
Part proceeds of concert given by Pupils, Pitcairngreen Public School, per Miss Walker (Serbia)	3	12	4
Miss L. K. Barton (Serbia) ...		7	6
Mrs. John Hutchison (Serbia)	10	0	0
Collected at Meetings of the Markinch Branch, S.G.F.S., per Miss J. A. Oswald, Hon. Sec. (Serbia)	4	1	9
Mrs. Dickson	1	0	0
"Bowden"	1	0	0
Nurse Thom (10s. France, 10s. Serbia)	1	0	0
Proceeds Dr. Inglis's Meeting, Merchiston Rooms, Edinburgh	13	9	3½
The Misses Macdonald (2nd donation)	5	0	0
Miss Johnston, per Miss Mair (Serbia)	10	0	0
From "Two Women" (towards the "Shropshire" Bed)		5	0
Miss E. R. Brownlee (Serbia)	5	0	0
H. C. Williamson, Esq. (Serbia)	1	0	0
Per Dr. McIlroy—collected by Dr. Honoria Keer from Kilmarnock Friends :— Mrs. Montgomerie (£2), Dr. McAlister (£3 3s.), James Middleton, Esq. (£1), Mrs. Rowand (2s. 6d.)	6	5	6
Messrs. Wm. Anderson & Sons, Ltd.	15	0	0
Mrs. Stewart	1	0	0
George Lorimer, Esq.	10	0	0
Miss Rose	5	0	0
Mrs. Gordon	5	0	0
Staff of Rutherford College Girls' School, per Miss Thomson (for dressings for Serbia—to be sent to Dr. Lena Campbell)	4	0	0
The Misses Stothart	10	10	0
Miss Forbes		10	0
Miss Crompton	1	0	0
Miss Macfarlane	1	0	0
Dr. David Gentle (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
Mrs. MacDonald (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
Miss More	1	0	0
Mrs. Chambers	2	2	0
James Thomson, Esq.		10	0
Wm. Macartney (Serbia) ...		10	0
Mrs. Kelly (Serbia)	5	0	0
"Anonymous"		5	0
Miss Stark		3	0
Dr. and Mrs. Cecil G. Foggo, Orange Free State (Serbia)	5	0	0
Active Service Fund, N.U.W.S.S., per Mrs. Auerbach (result of letter by Mr. C. Roden Buxton in *The Daily News*, with the exception of Miss Fleming) :— Miss Nancy Fleming (10s.) (French and Serbian), Miss Isabel Gwynne (£5), Mrs. and Miss Osborn (10s. 6d.), Mr. A. Ellis (10s.), Mr. W. J. Bell (£1), "Anonymous" (1s. 6d.), "H. T. A." (2s. 6d.), "M. B. W." (extra blankets) (4s.), Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Hart (£5), "Un autre ami Anglais" (10s.), Mr. John Berry (£3), Mr. I. F. Merritt, C.S.M.I. (£2), Miss Jane Badland (£1), Miss Caroline Badland (£1), Mr. J. W. Cawood (10s.), Mrs. J. A. Gotch (£1), Mr. P. W. Shore (£1), "E. E. C." (£1), Miss M. D. Shannon (£1), Mr. George F. Craggs (10s.), Mrs. Fitzroy (£25), Miss Emma Mahler (£5), Miss L. Mahler (£5), Mr A. B. Simpson (5s.), Miss S. Booth (£1), Miss Freeman (10s.), Mr. W. Frith Bryden (5s.), Misses E. B and A. M. Catchpool (£1), Mr. J. Houghton Hague (£1 1s.), Mr. Samuel Mitchell (£20), Miss Eva J. A. Lee (£1), "Anonymous" (2s. 6d.), Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan Garratt and Family (10s.), Mr. J. C Cocks (2s. 6d.), Mr. Diboll (2s. 6d.), Mr. John J Griffiths (£1 1s.), Mr Alfred Jermy (£3 3s.), Mr. Wm. Palmer Wilson (2s.), "L. L. B." (5s.), Mrs Richards (£5), Miss Florence Hedges (£1), Mr. J. Parker (5s.), "M. B." (10s.), Mr. C. Owen (10s.), Mr. John G. Jones (£2 2s.), Mr. Alfred A. Thomson (£1), Miss Mary C. Jones (4s.), Mrs. E. Ross (£1), Mrs. Bradish (£5), Miss M Bradish (£5), Mrs. Best (£25), Dr. Wm. Cregeen Faraker (£2 2s.), Mrs. E. Harrison (5s.), Mr. Edward Taylor (£1 1s.), "A Reader of *The Daily News*, Truro" (1s. 6d.), Mr. J. Spurgeon (5s.), "Anonymous" (10s.)	141	13	6
"C. P. T." and "M. K. T." ...		5	0
Mr. and Mrs. Hardie (Serbia)	5	5	0
Miss Ainslie	1	0	0
Miss Barker		5	0
W. H. Roberts, Esq., and Miss Roberts (Serbia)	2	0	0
Miss Mary Grey		5	0
Miss Watt (for the Abbaye de Royaumont)	5	0	0
Staff and Students of Dundee Training College, per N. Jackson, Esq. (Serbia) ...	5	5	0
"Anonymous"	1	0	0
The Misses Paterson (Serbia)	2	0	0
Mrs. Fuller Maitland	5	0	0
Miss Fraser		10	0
Mrs. Ritchie	5	0	0
Miss Finlay	1	0	0
Mrs. Lees	5	0	0
A. W. Russell, Esq.	10	0	0
Miss B. C. Buchanan (Serbia)	2	0	0
John H. Ure, Esq.	5	0	0
Mr. Birrell		5	0
Paisley W.S.S. and Friends, per Hon. Treas., Miss M. G. Todd (further contributions)	25	0	0
Per Dr. Honoria Keer, Mrs. R. C. Robertson	1	1	0
Miss Pearce (for the 3rd French Unit)		5	0
Whaley Bridge and District W.S.S. (for "Cheshire Suffragists" Bed, per Miss C. D. Simpson, Hon. Sec.—to name a bed for 6 months)	25	0	0
Hugh Robert, Esq.	10	0	0
Per Mrs. Walter A. Smith, Edinburgh (for "Murrayfield" Bed," further contribution) :—Mr. and Mrs. Moorland (£1 1s.), Miss Cowan (10s.)	1	11	0
Mrs. George Coats, Staneley, Paisley	3	0	0
	£14,431	7	2½

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

Per Mrs. Smith, Balnagowan, Murrayfield, Midlothian, for "Murrayfield" Bed :—

Collected by Mrs. Walker A Smith: Campbell Road—Mrs. Risk, (10s.), Mrs. Milne (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Mercer Dunlop (5s.), Mrs. M. Blothim (£1 1s.), Miss Harris (5s.). Murrayfield Road—Mrs. J. H. Herchman (£1), Mrs. Stephen and Miss Menzies (£5), Mrs. Callendar (£1), Mrs. J. Herbert Hedrman (£1), Mrs. D. Jeffry (£1), Mrs. G. T. Pentland (10s.), Mrs. Macrae Lynwood (£1), Mrs. D. Kennedy (£3 3s.), Mrs. Ewing (£2 2s.), Mrs. J. P. Watson (£3, Mrs. McClymont (£1 1s.), Mrs. Galloway (£1), Mrs. Neil Fraser (£2), Miss Herdman (10s.), Miss Strachan (2s. 6d.), Mr. and Mrs. Herdman (£1 5s.), Mrs. Jamieson (10s.), Mrs. R. W. Watherdton (£1), Mrs. W. MacMillan (£1), Mrs. Ainslie (10s.), Miss Menelans (£1), Lady Kennedy (£1), Miss Watson (5s.), Mrs. Runciman (7s. 6d.), Mrs. Crombie (5s.), Anon (5s.), Miss Baildon (£1 0s. 6d.), Miss Hill (10s.), Miss Purves (£2), Mr. and Mrs. Cowan (£10 10s.), Mr. Frances Cowan (£1 1s.), Mrs. James Ballantyne (10s.), Sir Archd. Campbell (£1), Mrs. Aitchison (10s.), Mrs. Fairweather (5s.).

[We regret that, owing to pressure on our space, we are obliged to hold over the remainder of the Supplementary Lists.]

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

BELGIAN REPATRIATION.

Annual Meeting of Oxford Women Students W.S.S.

The annual meeting of the Oxford Women Student's W.S.S. was held on Saturday, March 20th, at Westfield College (by kind permission of the Principal). There was a very good attendance, and M. Emile Cammaerts, member of the Belgian Repatriation Committee gave an address of the greatest interest on "The opportunities for private enterprise in reconstruction work in Belgium."

M. Cammaerts set aside first of all the conferences and discussions on town planning which had recently taken place as being interesting but quite impracticable, and in any case not questions for the interference of private individuals, and mentioned the three funds for reconstruction purposes which had already been set on foot.

(1) The "Everyman" Belgian Relief Fund.
(2) The Friends' Fund.
(3) The Belgian Repatriation Fund.

The third was the one with which M. Cammaerts was chiefly concerned, he was on the Committee, it had been started by his friend Mme. Vandervelde, and it was the only one whose funds were to be devoted entirely to repatriation and reconstruction, and not at all to temporary relief. Directly practical work began, these three would have to make common plans, as there was in this work a special danger of overlapping and waste. The plans of the Belgian Repatriation Committee would probably be adopted also by the other two Committees, and briefly might be outlined as follows:—Not only should assistance be given to soldiers at the front and to refugees in England and Holland, but the refugees must be helped to go back, and the sooner they go the better. Therefore a sum of money must be raised to supply the Belgian workers with materials to start work again. All they have has gone, for nearly all the Belgian agriculturalists are small holders: one-fifth of the population own their own houses and have no other capital.

Government help cannot be offered or expected until the war is over. But suppose that in two months or so the German lines are driven back, and about two Belgian provinces freed from the enemy. If the farmers belonging to these provinces have no hope of assistance, they will continue to stay unoccupied in England, or if they are still in Belgium, they will be forced to maintain themselves (for want of capital) by unskilled trades, such as stone-breaking, as they already do. The problem, too, is not only one of refugees. In Holland and England there are 1½ million refugees; but in Belgium now there are still several millions of Belgians in much the same plight. It is between the first retreat of the German army and the time when Government help can be hoped for that private help should come in.

Our first impression is that it is too great a work for private endeavor to cope with. Such desolation paralyses initiative. But it must be remembered that bridges, roads, and railways will be restored for military purposes as the armies advance; and as for houses, temporary shelters need at first only be erected. The whole thing must be conceived as temporary help until peace is settled, and help concerned with relatively small things.

M. Cammaerts then quoted, as being most correct and authoritative, an article by Mr. Seebohm Rowntree, which pointed out that about 3½ millions of Belgians are now subsisting on just sufficient rations from American charity. All these households will need restarting after the war with the necessities of life. Further, even the greatest of war indemnities would not really cover all the cases of want. There must always be some left out, who cannot establish their claim, who can better be dealt with by private means. Those willing to go among such people will find any amount of scope; but two things especially will be needed—a knowledge of nursing, and a knowledge of Flemish.

Work might also be undertaken among the widows and children of many civilians of the middle classes who have fallen in the massacres, the number of whom, especially in the south, is terribly large. The Belgian Government will almost certainly not be able to provide adequate pensions: and it is women who might very usefully train these destitute people to earn a livelihood.

M. Cammaerts laid renewed stress on the necessarily temporary character of the whole work, and on the knowledge both of nursing and of Flemish which would be required. He answered also one or two points generally raised. Some people were beginning to be discouraged, and to ask will Belgium ever recover? But the answer to this, even when all the enormous loss and damage she has suffered can be estimated, is unhesitatingly "yes." The proportion of the male population who will have fallen cannot be nearly so large as in France, and though towns are in many cases razed to the ground, and in two-fifths of the country all communications destroyed, yet Belgium will find means to cope with this. Railways might be sold, coalfields can be worked, in any case credit will not be wanting; and the marvellous spirit which in many cases made the people cling to their ruined houses, even under heavy bombardment, will soon bring them back again to their country when they are offered encouragement and help. They are a thrifty hardworking people to whom everything is worth while, and who love the land which is handed down from father to son.

In closing his address M. Cammaerts acknowledged that he had formerly been a stubborn adversary of Women's Suffrage, and had still doubts about the wisdom of votes for all women. But of one thing he was absolutely sure, after the experience he had had on the Belgian Repatriation Committee, namely that the knowledge and organising power of some women fully qualified them to be *elected*.

At the conclusion of M. Cammaerts's speech there was a discussion as to the best way in which Oxford Women Students might work either in Belgium or in France. It was finally decided to organise a body of trained women who would offer their services to the Belgian Repatriation Committee, and for this purpose at once to open a register of application for such work. Mention was also made of possibilities of immediate work in France either under the Society of Friends or the French Red Cross.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT.

The latest venture of the Society is a "Club for Girls and their Soldier Friends." Rooms have been taken in the Welsh Industries (1st Floor). The Club is open every evening.

Barry Branch.

On account of the distance from Cardiff the members of the Barry Branch have found it better to work in their area rather than in Cardiff, and are taking active part in the work of war relief in most of its forms. The President of the Branch is Joint Secretary of the Local Branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association—a very exacting occupation. Three members are on the Local Representative Committee. Eight members are on the Belgian War Refugee's Committee. A very large number are connected with Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance work. A weekly meeting for soldiers' and sailors' wives and dependents is run by members of the Branch. Several members have been doing mending for the soldiers and a number are helping various organisations to provide entertainment for them. Active steps have been taken by the Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild, to get established a Municipal Centre for Maternity and Child Welfare, but the long continued absence of the Medical Officer of Health on military duty has seriously delayed the project. Quite recently the Branch has been instrumental in starting Bands of the League of Honour, there being already ten enrolling officers.

Penarth Branch.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association.—Two of the three women on the local Committee of five persons are Suffragists, while another is the organiser of the Women's War Club. Several members are doing Red Cross work, and the quartermaster at St. John's Hospital is a member.

Queen's Work for Women Fund Committee.—Mrs. Iles is President, and several of our members are on the Committee, which has sent £18 to the Central Fund. All the women who need work in Penarth are employed in making shirts, &c., for soldiers.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—Two members are President and Secretary respectively of the "Penarth Baby Club." This was started in the autumn, and is doing excellent work with the hearty co-operation of the District Council, district nurses, and Medical Officer of Health. Several of the members are helping, including Miss Evan Jones, the Penarth Secretary. It is hoped a Government grant may be obtained in the near future, which will enable the Committee to extend their work considerably.

Relief Committee.—Penarth residents decided to look after its own poor. Therefore a local fund was collected—over £400 up to date. The relief is administered on C.O.S. lines by a Committee, with local Sub-committees for different districts. Mrs. Maillard is Hon. Secretary of this Committee, and Mrs. Moxley Chairman of the South District Sub-committee. Through this Relief Committee work has been found for many and temporary help given in case of illness.

Belgian Refugees.—One of our members has charge of one of the "Belgian" houses; other members have organised French classes, by means of which the Refugees can earn some money. Mrs. Rees Jones started a weekly working party for all the Belgian women, who meet at different houses, where tea is given and materials distributed to make garments for the Belgian soldiers.

Soldiers' Comforts.—A working party was started by two of our members to make shirts for soldiers and to undertake their mending. Another member is in charge of the Sunday teas given to soldiers from local forts and camps at St. Paul's Institute. Mrs. Handcock is also librarian to the Cardiff Military Hospital.

Items of Interest.

Women Patrols for Brighton

It has been stated in the press that Brighton has appointed a force of women police. This, however, is a mistake. The services of a number of women patrols, organised by the local branch of the National Union of Women Workers, have been accepted, but these are voluntary workers, not paid officials.

A Woman Medical Inspector.

Essex Education Committee has decided to release Dr. F. S. Hawks, a school medical officer, who wishes to take a commission in the Medical Corps, and to appoint in his place, during the war, Mrs. Leitch, a married woman doctor, whose husband is serving at the front.

Help for French Wounded.

A French Wounded Emergency Fund, approved by the Anglo-French Hospitals Committee, has been formed with the object of providing help of every kind, including nurses, drugs, surgical instruments, clothing, blankets, &c., for military hospitals in France. In the first place, the fund is intended to help hospitals in small towns in Normandy and Brittany, whose inhabitants can give very little; but should there be a generous response to the appeal, the work will be extended. Woollen garments are specially needed, owing to the scarcity of wool in France; also sheets, pillow cases, waterproof sheeting, absorbent wool, &c.

A Musical Lecture.

A grand musical lecture will be given on Tuesday, April 13th, at 8.30, at the Large Co-operative Hall, Brownhill Road, Catford, under the auspices of the Lewisham Branch of the I.L.P.

Forthcoming Meetings.

MARCH 26.

Aeolian Hall, New Bond Street, W.—Public Lecture by Dr. Walter Leaf on "The Dardanelles," illustrated by lantern slides—Tickets, 7s. 6d., 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. 8.30

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Miss Alma Mackay on "Home Life in Germany in War Time"—Chair, Miss Alice Low 8.0

Letchworth—Howard Hall—Annual Meeting of N.U. Society—Speaker, Miss I. O. Ford 3.0

Newcastle-on-Tyne—Barras Bridge Assembly Rooms—Annual Meeting of Members—Inaugural Lecture of Educational Course—Mrs. Fawcett on "Nationalities and Democracy: the Lessons of 1815" 8.0

MARCH 28.

Birmingham—Erdington I.L.P.—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 6.30

MARCH 29.

Birmingham—West Bromwich Soldiers' Wives' Club—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 2.45

Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party 3.0—5.0

Cardiff—132, Queen Street—Mr. Ernest Hughes, M.A., on "The Dual Monarchy" 8.0

Manchester—York Street Temperance Hall, Chester Road, Hulme—Hulme Suffrage Club—Speaker, Miss Goodyer 8.0

MARCH 30.

Bristol—5, Berkeley Square—French Class for Soldiers

APRIL 1.

Bristol—5, Berkeley Square—French Class for Soldiers

Manchester—Gospel Temperance Hall, Ashton New Road—Bradford, Beswick, and New Cross Suffrage Club—Speaker, Mr. C. Bundock 7.45

Wallasey and Wirral—St. Paul's Schools—Seacombe Tipperary Club 7.30

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